

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 5, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Paul McFadden; Frank Maher; and Bill Clay. Member Bill Munroe was absent. Interim Superintendent James A. DiPrete; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Coutcher read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth gave an overview of summer/fall student activities. He reported Homecoming is scheduled for September 30th.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Interim Superintendent DiPrete gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Chair DeSack requested consent agenda, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, g. Elizabeth Lind as Acting Department Chair of the Fine Arts Department, Stipend \$5,000.00, effective August 28, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda with item B.,1., g. pulled. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of August 8, 2006, Executive Session Minutes of August 8, 2006, Executive Session Minutes of August 22, 2006

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Interim Superintendent)

(No change to Budget FTE's)

a. Mary Ellen Gelinas from .67 FTE to 1.0 FTE, Sr. High School Business Teacher, effective August 28, 2006

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b. Mary L. Greboval from 1.0 FTE Sr. High School History Teacher to 1.0 FTE Sr. High School French Teacher, for 1st Semester with a possible option for the 2nd semester, effective August 28, 2006

c. Michael Buckley from 1.0 FTE Grade-4 Teacher to 1.0 FTE Sr. High School History Teacher, for 1st semester with a possible option for the 2nd semester, effective August 28, 2006

d. Darlene DiRocco as 1.0 FTE Grade-4 Teacher at Metcalf School, Step 1, Bachelors, Salary \$35,249.00, effective August 28, 2006

e. Sara Bailey as .5 FTE Half-Day Kindergarten Teacher at Lineham School, Step 1, Bachelors, Salary \$ 17,624.00, effective August 28, 2006

f. Michael Penza and John Ward as Co-Advisors to the Sr. High School Class of 2010, Stipend \$1,030.00, effective August 28, 2006

h. Request to Hire 0.5 FTE Graduation by Proficiency/Senior Project Coordinator, Salary \$34,562.00 (for top step 0.5 FTE)

i. Rockie Bromell as Fall Sports Supervisor Senior High School, Stipend \$2,402.00, effective for the 2006 – 2007 season

j. Steve Alves as Volunteer Sr. High School Assistant Football Coach, effective for the 2006 – 2007 season

2. Leaves of absence

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Interim Superintendent)

a. Letter of Resignation from Harold Allen as 1.0 FTE District Technician, with regret, effective August 28, 2006.

C. Bills – (ENCLOSED) – In the amount of \$122,438.71

D. Home School Approvals – (As Recommended by the Interim Superintendent)

- 1. MC LAUGHLIN – Thomas**
- 2. MALLOZZI – Anthony**
- 3. SPENCER – Helen Rose**
- 4. GREENE – Kelsey, Nicolette, Courtney**
- 5. IVES – Jennifer, Alexander**
- 6. EDWARDS – Jacqueline**
- 7. BARDSLEY – Christiana**

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End Consent Agenda

Interim Superintendent DiPrete reviewed the correspondence.

E. Correspondence – (1) E-mail from Chair DeSack regarding Superintendent Search Information, (2) End of Year Report from Sodexo, (3) SAT Prep Course Update

Unaudited Year-End budget Projection 2005-2006 – Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed the 2005 – 2006 budget is still in the black.

Monthly Sub-Committee Report – Policy Committee Report – Member Clay referenced Policy #7605 and explained this policy is not complete as is stated in the policy committee report. The policy committee plans to review this policy in about a week. Member Clay explained the purpose of Policy #7605 is to ensure, as per School Committees' agreement, that social promotions do not take place.

NEW BUSINESS – Transportation – Request for an Additional Bus – Director of Administration Robert Ross recommended School Committee approve the addition of two buses for the 2006 – 2007 school year. He gave an overview of a three-page 06/07 Transportation Issues narrative he provided for members' review. Members and Mr. Ross discussed the feasibility of the district purchasing minibuses for the future. Consensus of the committee was to have Mr. Ross investigate purchasing mini buses and

reporting his findings at the first School Committee meeting in October.

Member Clay moved to approve two additional buses. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.

Member McFadden reverted back to agenda item Correspondence and requested Correspondence (3) SAT Prep Course Update be pulled for discussion at the next School Committee meeting.

EWG Sports 4 Kids Track Project – Sharon Pelser gave an update of the current status of EWG Sports 4 Kids track project finances and indicated the group will hopefully be able to break ground for phase one in spring 2007. She reported EWG Sports 4 Kids has recently applied to The Champlin Foundation for a grant and met with Champlin representatives during this past summer. Champlin indicated they want to see School Committee support and participation from the school department prior to approving the grant.

Mrs. Pelser requested the district earmark \$50,000 to EWG Sports 4 Kids, as Champlin issued \$50,000 to them seven years ago - which the district used to purchase computers. She said her group must get back to Champlin by October 1, 2006 with written correspondence illustrating School Committee support. Mr. Ron Correia expressed he is confident, if the school department expresses its support, Champlin will

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award the group at least \$50,000. Clerk Coutcher expressed his support and his view that EWG Sports 4 Kids is doing a wonderful job.

Clerk Coutcher moved to grant EWG Sports 4 Kids \$50,000 pending the outcome of the district's audit for the 2005 – 2006 school year as long as the reserve fund balance comes in with a \$400,000 or above surplus at the time the audit is complete. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Discussion:

Member McFadden expressed his view that Metcalf's fire alarm system repair takes precedence and asked Mr. Coutcher to change his motion language slightly. Members discussed the Metcalf fire alarms system status in detail. Chair DeSack pointed out the committee is rolling agenda item Metcalf Fire Alarm System Update into this discussion. Mr. Ross gave an update/projection of the Metcalf Fire Alarm System repair project. Mr. Ross and Member McFadden discussed the projected capital fund budget balance going into next summer 2008. Student Member Geoffrey Southworth gave a student's point of view as to the importance of constructing a new track and field.

Voted 6 – 0.

The district will supply EWG Sports 4 Kids with written correspondence, addressed to The Champlin Foundation, documenting School Committee financial support and stated conditions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Metcalf Fire Alarm - Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross and members briefly discussed electrical engineer drawings, electrical contractors, construction costs, egress, and the fire marshal's recommendations for Metcalf's fire alarm system. Chair DeSack referenced recommendations made at the August 1, 2006 State Fire Board Appeal and Review hearing and said solutions were given as suggestions, but nothing has been approved or denied yet. Mr. Ross confirmed, prior to moving forward with phase two, Administration will seek School Committee consent.

Superintendent Search – Chair DeSack reminded members of the Special Meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. She reported at last count there were fifteen good applicants interested in the vacancy. She said résumés will be provided for members' review prior to the meeting and applicants' names and addresses will be removed, as where an applicant resides should not matter in the decision making process. Member McFadden voiced his desire to know what state applicants' reside in. Chair DeSack agreed to provide data showing number of applicants from each state. Chair DeSack asked members to allot three to four hours for the meeting.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #7704 – Student and Parent Challenges to Planned Instruction – Adoption – Member Clay moved to adopt Policy #7704 – Student and Parent Challenges to Planned Instruction. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.

#7803 – Controversial Issues in School Forums – Adoption – Member Clay moved to adopt #7803 – Controversial Issues in School Forums. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 – 1. Member McFadden voted no.

#7804 – Introduction of Supplementary Instructional Materials and Presentation – Adoption – Member Clay moved to adopt Policy #7804 – Introduction of Supplementary Instructional Materials and Presentation. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0

School Committee Member Munroe's Conduct at Meetings – Chair DeSack explained due to Member Munroe's absence, this agenda item was postponed from the previous meeting to tonight. Since that time, Chair DeSack has obtained clearance from Attorney Gorham to move forward without Member Munroe's presence. Interim Superintendent James DiPrete reported he spoke with Attorney

Gorham regarding this matter. Member McFadden said he would like to see written correspondence explaining why the discussion can take place in a public forum. Interim Superintendent DiPrete reiterated he spoke with Attorney Gorham and he was very clear in his response. Mr. DiPrete confirmed he sent a registered letter to Member Munroe regarding tonight's agenda item. Member Clay emphasized Open Meeting Laws do not require anyone to convene any subject matter in closed session. Member McFadden said historically the committee has discussed personnel matters in closed session. Chair DeSack said, at the School Committees' request, members are to notify the chairperson if they will not be in attendance at a meeting, yet notification was not received from Member Munroe regarding tonight's meeting.

Vice Chair Cicero moved that Member Munroe is hereby excluded from all extended School Committee activities or duties, which are School Committee controlled or appointed to. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to the following:

- o Representing the School Committee at SORICO,**
- o Participating in contract negotiation with school district bargaining unit,**
- o Participating in the interview of any person seeking employment in the school district, or**
- o Servicing on any School Committee sub committee.**

Seconded by Member Clay.

Chair DeSack explained the motion on the table is asking members to vote on not allowing Member Munroe the right to vote as a representative of the School Committee at all extended School Committee activities or duties and this is not a discussion about Member Munroe's behavior.

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Member McFadden voiced his opinion that the School Committee is attempting to disconnect the authority of an elected official. He said the School Committee does not have the right to take away those rights from Member Munroe. He said he would not support the motion. Member Maher expressed he may agree with some of Vice Chair Cicero's motion but not all and said this motion should have been provided beforehand for members' review. Vice Chair Cicero and Member McFadden discussed preparing a motion in advance of a meeting. Member Clay said if Member Munroe were present at tonight's meeting; there would have been a discussion about his behavior. Member Maher expressed his opinion that he views this motion as a punitive action. Member Maher said he thinks Member Munroe's behavior should be discussed in open session because he made comments in open session; however, a motion of this type should only be brought forward after his behavior is discussed. Vice Chair Cicero agreed to withdraw her motion and table it until the next meeting. Member Clay clarified this item will proceed at the next

meeting with or without Member Munroe's presence. Consensus of the committee was to issue Member Munroe a letter informing him of the committees' agreement.

Member Munroe's Open Meeting Law Complaint to the RI Attorney General – Chair DeSack said correspondence regarding this matter has been provided to members for their review. The committee is presently waiting to hear from the Attorney General regarding this issue. Member Clay expressed he has questions to ask Member Munroe regarding this issue. This item is also tabled to the next meeting.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack requested consent agenda item, B.,1., g.

Elizabeth Lind as Acting Department Chair of the Fine Arts Department, Stipend \$5,000.00, effective August 28, 2006 be pulled for discussion during Executive Session.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – September 23, 2006 – Special Executive Session School Committee Meeting; September 26, 2006 – State Fire Board Appeal and Review Hearing; September 26, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; October 10, 2006 – School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-45-5 (a) (9) for the

**purpose of discussion regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.**

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

**Member Maher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by
Chair DeSack. Voted 6 – 0.**

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:15 p.m.

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**Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in Open Session in
accordance with RIGL 42-46-2 (b) at 9:15 p.m.**

**A 6 – 0 vote was taken during Executive Session to accept consent
agenda item, B.,1., g.**

**Elizabeth Lind as Acting Department Chair of the Fine Arts
Department, Stipend \$5,000.00, effective August 28, 2006.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.
Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK